



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
 Southern District of New York

86 Chambers Street
 New York, New York 10007

October 21, 2021

VIA ECF

Hon. Ronnie Abrams
 United States District Judge
 Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
 40 Foley Square
 New York, New York 10007

Re: *Tovar Mancera v. Renaud, No. 21 Civ. 5698 (RA)*

Dear Judge Abrams:

This Office represents the government in the above referenced action in which the plaintiff seeks an order compelling U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”) to adjudicate his Petition for Alien Entrepreneur (“Form I-526”). The government’s response to the complaint is currently due November 15, 2021, and the initial pretrial conference is scheduled for December 3, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. ECF No. 10. I write with the plaintiff’s consent to respectfully request that the Court stay this case because statutory authorization related to the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Regional Center Program, under which plaintiff filed his petition, has expired but may be renewed by Congress.

By way of background, in 1990, Congress amended the Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”) to provide for classification of “employment creation” immigrants who invest lawfully acquired capital in new commercial enterprises in the United States that create full-time employment for United States workers. *See* Immigration Act of 1990, Pub. L. No. 101-649, § 121(a) (Nov. 29, 1990) (codified at 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(5)). This classification is also known as the EB-5 classification. *See generally* 8 C.F.R. § 204.6. An investor applies for EB-5 visa classification through filing a Form I-526 with USCIS. *See, e.g., Lin Liu v. Smith*, No. 19 Civ. 10784 (JGK), 2021 WL 232890, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 25, 2021). The plaintiff’s Form I-526 petition is based on an investment under the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Regional Center Program (“Regional Center Program”), which imposes less-onerous requirements for participation in the EB-5 program than otherwise would apply (primarily with respect to the job creation requirement). Since the filing of plaintiff’s complaint, Congress has not extended the statutory authorization related to the Regional Center Program, which expired as of July 1, 2021. *See* Section 610 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993, Pub. L. No. 102-395, 106 Stat. 1828 (1992), as amended; Div. O, Title I, Sec. 104 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260 (2020).

In the past, the statutory authority related to the Regional Center Program has lapsed and later been renewed by Congress. As USCIS has done in similar instances in the past, and in light of possible statutory reauthorization, in general, USCIS is currently not taking action on regional center Forms I-526 filed on or before June 30, 2021. To allow time for Congress to take action on

the potential renewal of the statutory authorization related to the program, the government requests that this case be stayed until thirty days after Congress enacts reauthorization legislation or until an application by either side to lift the stay is granted by the Court. No later than thirty days after such congressional action, the parties will confer and will file a joint status letter regarding proposed next steps in this litigation. The plaintiff consents to this request. The government had previously filed a request for a 60-day extension of time to respond to the complaint, until November 15, 2021, and a request for an adjournment of the initial pretrial conference, which the Court granted on August 11, 2021. ECF Nos. 9, 10.

In light of the foregoing, the government also requests that the Court adjourn *sine die* the initial pretrial conference currently scheduled for December 3, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. The government respectfully submits that such an adjournment would promote the interests of judicial efficiency and conservation of resources. The plaintiff also consents to this request.

I thank the Court for its consideration of these requests.

Respectfully submitted,

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cc: Counsel of Record (via ECF)

Application granted. This case is hereby stayed until further order of the Court. The initial pretrial conference scheduled for December 3, 2021, is adjourned *sine die*. The parties shall file a status letter with the Court either (1) 30 days after congressional action related to the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Regional Center Program, or (2) January 20, 2022, whichever is sooner.

SO ORDERED.



Hon. Ronnie Abrams
October 22, 2021